

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, dated May 31, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 and 44-53 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,904,427 (hereinafter "HAGIWARA"). By way of this amendment, Applicant proposes amending independent claims 1 and 19 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 15 and to improve form. Applicant also proposes adding new claim 54, which substantially comprises previous dependent claim 9 re-written in independent form. No new matter will be added by the proposed claim amendments. Applicant also proposes canceling claims 6, 15, 17, 18 and 44-53 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16, 19-43 and 54 would be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Of these claims, claims 20-43 have been withdrawn due to a restriction requirement. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection of claims 1-14, 16 and 19 is respectfully requested in view of the proposed amendments and the following remarks.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

On page 2, the final Office Action rejects pending claims 1-14, 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,904,427 (hereinafter "HAGIWARA"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Independent claim 1, amended as proposed to recite the features of dependent claim 15, recites a method that includes receiving one or more search queries; searching stored data based on the one or more search queries to generate results, where the results are orderable by one or more search characteristics; and providing a document that includes a multi-dimensional graph

of the results of the search, at least one of the one or more search characteristics being represented as a dimension on the multi-dimensional graph, where each of the results has a visual representation on the multi-dimensional graph and where a size associated with each of the visual representations is varied based on a relevance associated with each of the results.

A proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a reference teach every aspect of the claimed invention. See M.P.E.P. § 2131. HAGIWARA does not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in Applicant's claim 1, amended as proposed. For example, HAGIWARA does not disclose or suggest, among other features, providing a document that includes a multi-dimensional graph of the results of a search where each of the results has a visual representation on the multi-dimensional graph and where a size associated with each of the representations is varied based on a relevance associated with each of the results, as recited in proposed claim 1.

In rejecting claim 15, which has been incorporated into proposed claim 1, the final Office Action (pg. 5) relies on column 7, lines 13-67 of HAGIWARA for allegedly disclosing the features of dependent claim 15. This section generally describes FIGS. 3-8, which depict input screens for entering search keywords and selecting search databases, and FIGS. 9-14, which depict graphical plots related to database searches. Particularly, FIGS. 9-14 depict graphical plots, or bar charts, of a number of search result hits versus a span of years ranging from 1992 to 1998 over which a search is conducted (see also FIG. 5 and column 8, lines 10-25), where the different plots are associated with searches of different databases (e.g., a patent database, a newspaper database, etc.). The plots of FIGS. 9-14, thus, depict a number of hits found in

different databases per year when searching those databases with keyword search queries (e.g., keywords: "Fujitsu," "I-Company," "WWW," "Parallel"). As is apparent from the plots of FIGS. 9-14, and the corresponding description, HAGIWARA merely discloses graphical plots of the number of search results per year for each of several searched databases, and does not disclose, suggest, or in any way mention, providing a document that includes a multi-dimensional graph of the results of a search where each of the results has a visual representation on the multi-dimensional graph and where a size associated with each of the representations is varied based on a relevance associated with each of the results, as recited in proposed claim 1.

Since HAGIWARA does not disclose each and every feature of proposed claim 1, HAGIWARA cannot anticipate proposed claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 2-14 and 16-18 depend from claim 1. These claims are, therefore, not anticipated by HAGIWARA for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Amended independent claim 19 recites features that are similar to (though possibly having different scope than) the features of claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19 is requested for at least similar reasons to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Proposed new claim 54 substantially includes previous dependent claim 9 re-written in independent form. Proposed claim 54 recites a method that includes receiving one or more search queries; searching stored data based on the one or more search queries to generate results, where the results are orderable by one or more search characteristics and where the one or more search characteristics comprise one of price, image quality, image size or geographic distance;

and providing a document that includes a multi-dimensional graph of the results of the search, at least one of the one or more search characteristics being represented as a dimension on the multi-dimensional graph. HAGIWARA does not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in proposed claim 54.

For example, HAGIWARA does not disclose or suggest, among other features, one or more search characteristics comprising one of price, image quality, image size or geographic distance and providing a document that includes a multi-dimensional graph of the results of the search, at least one of the one or more search characteristics being represented as a dimension on the multi-dimensional graph, as recited in proposed claim 54. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, FIGS. 9-14 of HAGIWARA merely depict a number of hits found in different databases per year when searching those databases with keyword search queries (e.g., keywords: “Fujitsu,” “I-Company,” “WWW,” “Parallel”). HAGIWARA, therefore, does not disclose, suggest, or even mention, one or more search characteristics comprising one of *price, image quality, image size or geographic distance* and providing a document that includes a multi-dimensional graph of the results of the search, *at least one of the one or more search characteristics being represented as a dimension on the multi-dimensional graph*, as recited in proposed claim 54. Proposed claim 54, therefore, is patentable over HAGIWARA.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be entered because the proposed amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additionally search of the art by the

Examiner since the amendment merely incorporates features from dependent claims into independent claims or re-writes dependent claims in independent form. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the entry of this amendment would place the application in better form for appeal in the event that the application is not allowed.

As Applicant's remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicant's silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, assertions as to dependent claims, etc.) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserves the right to analyze and dispute such assertions/requirements in the future.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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